

WALTON RADIO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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HORACE HITS ONE HUNDRED

The Walton Radio Association was pleased to honor Horace Staley on his one-hundredth birthday.



The Club had a luncheon at Danny's Restaurant in Walton in honor of Horace's achievement. Frank Falknor and Adin Miller organized the event. The gathering produced a large turn out of club members to celebrate this special occasion. Horace had not been told of the party in his honor. He was pleasantly surprised and kept noting that, "I never expected to live so long and get a surprise like this." His usual grace and humor was much appreciated by the crowd.



Horace is famous for his standard greeting on the WRA's Wednesday Two Meter Net. He likes to greet everyone on the net by saying, "I am still here!" He is also the net manager for the Wra's Monday night CW Net. He has made many contributions to the

WRA over the years and we look forward to his continued participation in the WRA.



In addition, one of our members, Paul DeAndrea, was a runner. It has been suggested that Paul could carry his HT with him during the run, but so far he has refused the request to give a “running” report on the progress of the race.

Paul did finish well and lead the ambulance that follows the runners by a respectable distance. We were fortunate that the weather managed to stop raining for the duration of the race. The runners prefer a cool day, but many of the operators are pleased if it does not rain! Below are some of the operators that worked the event.

WRA PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

For many years now, WRA members and other volunteer operators have helped the organizers of the Delhi 10K Run. The organizers have been very pleased with the radio coverage we give to the event. We have operators stationed at every mile of the race, and keep the organizers informed of the progress of the runners and any safety issues during the race.



In the afternoon Frank Falknor and Pauline Klimowski helped the Bicycle Time Trail event. The Bicycle Time Trials are organized by the same group that puts on the 10K Run. This year there were nearly seventy-five entrants in the Time Trials. The participants range in age from the late teens to full fledged senior citizens.



Walton Harvest Festival

The WRA ‘s participation in the Harvest Festival continues to improve and attract more people to our station. This year there was a prize for the visitor that made the most distant contact. A young lady won the ten-dollar prize for this achievement.



One of our club members is a very shy operator as is evident in this photo of John Hampel.

“Stealth Operator”



Peter Kisielewski kindly donated a number of home grown pumpkins to give out as prizes to many of the visitors to the station.

WRA Field Day

You editor managed to delete all the photos he took of the set up for our field day event. Worse yet, I misplaced the photos of our “century operator” Horace Staley when he was being interviewed by the local public service television station.

During the field day exercise, the WRA operators made 393 CW contacts, and 94

phone contacts. Once again Adin Miller lent his trailer to house the operators. He also donated various trees from which we strung our antennas.

The Scouts Report
By Jim LeBaron

Sidney's Troop 88 Working on Radio MB

Al Mongardi K2EZK shows his DX QSL cards and awards to Scouts L-R: Kevin Davie, Tim Walts, Dakota Finch, Dallas Butler, and Paul Ferrante. Charlie Walsh, Brian Conran and Shawn Innes.



Troop 88, Chartered to Sacred Heart Catholic church, has completed 2 of 6 classes toward their Radio merit Badge. K2EZK, DXCC awardee many times over, showed the group his excellent collection of QSL cards and awards for his extensive DX work.

This lesson is applied to the requirements to: [1.d] "Discuss why some radio stations are called DX and others are called local." And [7.1] "Describe some of the activities that Amateur Radio operators can do..."

Additionally, the differences of block diagrams and schematic diagrams were explained; as were the symbols and definitions for resistor, capacitor, diodes

and transistors, etc. and their and uses. [6.a – d] Scouts studied propagation: line-of-sight, ground wave and the curvature of the earth along with ionosphere bounce or skip. [2.a] They explained the difference between a receiver, a transmitter, a transceiver, an amplifier and an antenna [4]; as well as an open, closed and a shorted circuit

Scouts have also talked on CB radio and checked in to a local 2M ARES net while explaining the differences between broadcast and 2-way radio as well as between broadcast and "hobby" radio. [1.a & 1.b]

TR 88 also made up their own callsigns and reported them to the group using the phonetic alphabet and naming a real city within their chosen call region numbers. [1.c]

Scout Connor Hornbeck KC2JJY [TR99] worked with the candidates on Tech Class requirements and privileges [7.4] as well as call signs and phonetics. [1.c]

Other instructors are Gus Mark WA2GRS and Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

Fists Contest

On September 30 through October 1st, four WRA members, Jim Mills, Frank Falknor, Horace Staley and Adin Miller joined in a nation wide Fists CW contest. Due to extremely bad atmospheric conditions, the members in the contest were only able to make 31 contacts.

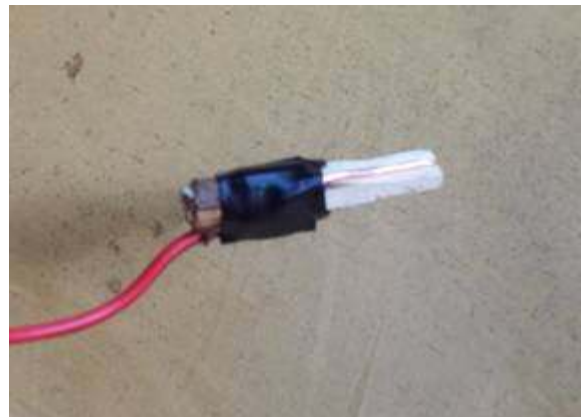
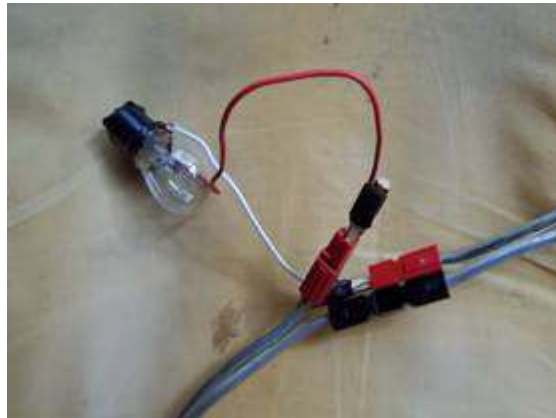
Technical Advances

Article provided by
Jim Le Baron

Powerstick

Bulb Seriesed between batteriy leads. Powerstick close-up

Had a low 12 V battery while camped up in the Adirondacks [Northern NY State].



Was doing some canoe race communications and general "keeping-in-touch" with gracious ham friends in the area and needed to be sure the Gel-Cell stayed up to the job. After reading the Tech License manual again [prepping for another Boy Scout Class [Wish we could use the same manual for a few years before it gets changed again.] I read I could just mate it up to the car battery and it would charge back up! Oh oh; there was a cautionary note, however. Best to have some kind of current-limiting device between them in

case one was very low in voltage. High current might be encountered during the "re-fuelling" process. Hmm. Didn't have any resistors along with us in camp. Found a spare auto bulb and soldered [with gas-stove-heated copper iron] a couple wires to it. Then I wondered how I could hook it all up between the hot battery leads without messing up my neat Anderson Power-Pole terminations. Hence the "Powerstick". Found a stick that could be whittled to about the size of the tongue on a Power-Pole

connector. Cut a small notch in the end, stripped and bent a piece of solid AWG 20 around the end and back far enough to get some black electrical tape around it. Took a little fussing' with the thickness of the wood to get it to mate nicely with the contact shoe of the REAL Anderson, but the thing worked. Well, there was no danger this time.... battery was down to just about 11.5 V. Not as much fun as feared: i.e. Brilliant bulb, hot wires, flame, sparks etc. None of that. There may, indeed be very little danger with this kind of set-up but I would advise one to take caution when trying such a stunt. '73 and "Be Prepared" to all OCARG subscribers. Jim WA2IAX, Sidney, NY Troop 99.



LOCAL NETS AND REPEATERS

2 METERS:

WRA NET WEDNESDAYS @ 7 PM ON THE 146.745- REPEATER

W2LZ REPEATER 147.315+

H.F. NET

WCN WESTERN CATSKILL CW NET MONDAYS @ 6:30 PM 3540

